

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A nozzle having a spout through which a fuel flows from an upstream to a downstream direction, comprising:

a shutoff valve;

a diaphragm positioned downstream of the shutoff valve, and having circumferentially coupled to and at a position near a downstream end of the spout, wherein the diaphragm has a body and a multi-branched opening to form a pressure-activated valve that seals a lumen of the spout against flow of the fuel; and

wherein the diaphragm is responsive to fuel pressure in the spout, upstream of the diaphragm such that a portion of the diaphragm flexes between a downstream position that opens the valve and an upstream position that closes the valve.

2. (currently amended) The nozzle of claim 1 wherein the diaphragm is circumferentially coupled to the spout. fuel flows through the multi-branched opening.

3. (currently amended) The nozzle of claim 2 wherein the diaphragm is substantially non-planar. multi-branched opening has at least three branches.

4. (original) The nozzle of claim 2 wherein the multi-branched opening has at least four branches.

5. (original) The nozzle of claim 1 wherein diaphragm is substantially donut shaped.

6. (original) The nozzle of claim 1 wherein the diaphragm comprises a continuous piece of a polymer.

7. (original) The nozzle of claim 6 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of a urethane, a rubber, and a silicone.

8. (original) The nozzle of claim 1 wherein the diaphragm is positioned such that there is substantially no dead space between the diaphragm and the end of the spout.

9. (currently amended) The nozzle of claim 1 wherein the diaphragm has a flexibility such that during operation of the nozzle, a point of greatest travel of the diaphragm ~~moves is~~ is less than 2 cm.

10. (currently amended) The nozzle of claim 1 wherein the diaphragm is has a flexibility such that during operation of the nozzle, a point of greatest travel of the diaphragm ~~moves is~~ is at least one 0.25 cm.

11. Canceled.

12. (currently amended) The nozzle of claim 1 wherein the diaphragm is packaged in an installation frame sized and dimensioned to be inserted into the spout.

13. (original) The nozzle of claim 1 wherein the diaphragm extends substantially normally across the spout.

14. Canceled.

15. (original) The nozzle of claim 10 wherein the diaphragm is packaged in an installation frame.

16. (currently amended) A diaphragm for use as a valve in a spout of an automotive fuel dispensing nozzle, comprising:

an outer portion sized and dimensioned to fit snugly circumferentially against the spout;
a flexible diaphragm defining a inner portion having a multibranched fluid passageway having at least three branches, and biased into a domed configuration, wherein the fluid passageway is closed in the domed configuration and open in a configuration other than the domed configuration; and

the diaphragm sufficiently flexible to at least partially open the fluid passageway when the diaphragm is subjected to an upstream fuel pressure in the spout of less than 1.5 atmospheres.

17. (currently amended) The diaphragm of claim 16 wherein the diaphragm has an outer ring portion that is continuous with the domed portion, is continuous with the outer ring portion.

18. (currently amended) The diaphragm of claim 16 wherein the diaphragm is sized and dimensioned to be positioned near an end of the spout. ~~fluid passageway comprises an opening.~~

19. (currently amended) The diaphragm of claim 16 wherein the ~~multibranched~~ multi-branched fluid passageway comprises at least three branches.

20. (original) The diaphragm of claim 16 wherein diaphragm is substantially donut shaped.

21. (original) The diaphragm of claim 16 wherein the inner portion comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a urethane, a rubber, and a silicone.

22. (original) The diaphragm of claim 16 wherein the diaphragm is sufficiently flexible to open the fluid passageway at least 90% when the diaphragm is subjected to a pressure less than 1.5 atmospheres.